

What Do Job Orders Say?

White Collar Job Orders

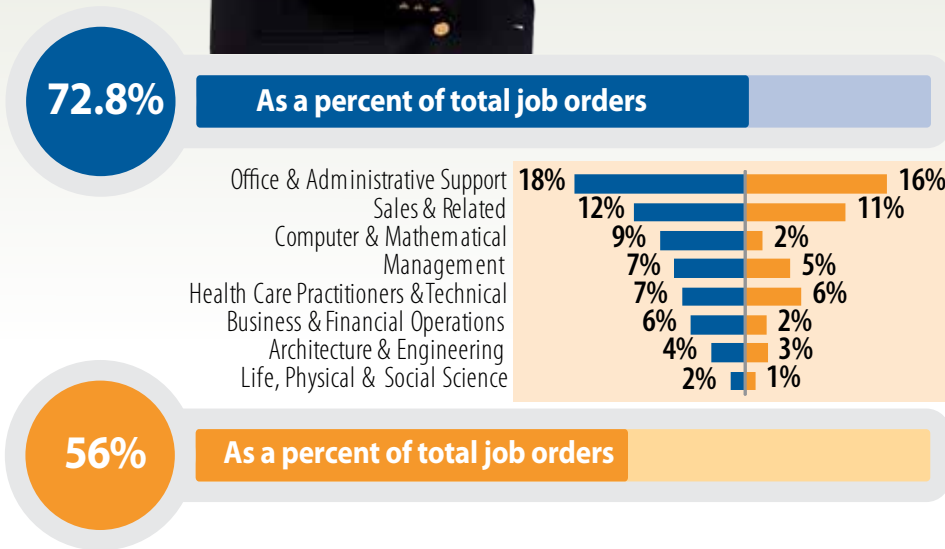


Utah employers who are looking to hire additional staff often turn to the jobs board on the Department of Workforce Services (DWS) website. When a firm places a job order, they are asked to provide specific information about the positions they hope to fill, such as the location of the worksite, the occupational title of the open position and the number of positions available. For analysts, the DWS employment database provides an abundance of labor market data that can be used to examine the local economy and highlight differences in rural and urban employment.

The number of job orders posted tells a valuable story about economic growth and

Figure 1: **Distribution of Utah Job Orders by SOC Major Groups***

The Wasatch Front** vs. All Other Areas
First Quarter 2013



*SOC Major Groups represent the 23 Standard Occupational Classification Groups that describe the job title and function for a given occupation

**Wasatch Front is represented by Weber, Davis, Salt Lake and Utah Counties as well as Brigham City

What is the story of economic growth and employer demand for labor along the Wasatch Front vs. other areas of Utah?

employer demand for labor. In 2009, at the bottom of the recession, there were an average of approximately 1,400 job orders posted on the DWS job board each month. In the four years after 2009, job orders increased by over 10 percent per year to nearly 2,000 orders per month in 2012. Job posting momentum continued in the first three months of this year: from the first quarter of 2012 to the first quarter of 2013 job orders grew 15.8 percent. Although the demand for labor has increased statewide, growth has been uneven from county to county.

The types of jobs in demand differ greatly depending on the dynamics of the local economy. Urbanization contributes highly to the types of occupations employers are seeking. The Wasatch Front is the most heavily populated area in the state, and a much larger

proportion of employers across this urbanized region are looking for employees in “white-collar” occupations, like computers and mathematics or business and financial operations. Conversely, the counties and cities not located in the Wasatch Front have a larger proportion of job orders in service and “blue-collar” occupations, like food preparation and serving or production (Figure 1).

Job order data reveal valuable insights about the economy. Job order postings on the DWS website have seen positive improvements since 2009 and the variety of job orders from the Wasatch Front highlights the differences between urban and rural staffing patterns. ⓘ

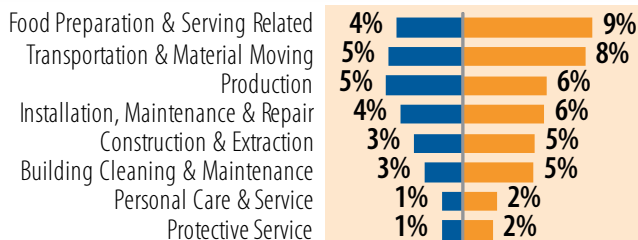
Wasatch Front

All Other Areas

Other Job Orders

27.2%

As a percent of total job orders



44%

As a percent of total job orders

Source: Department of Workforce Services